

The Oasis

"Amazing, beautiful change,
"A world created new;
"The thoughts with transport range
"This lovely scene to view."

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THE PENSION BUSINESS.

From its very foundation the United has dealt liberally with the soldiers who fought the battles of its successful wars; and there is no reason why the soldiers of the last should not be treated as liberally as those of former wars, though the foe they fought was domestic and not foreign. The services they rendered were far more arduous, and the results of incalculable value. The country's illimitable resources would render it far easier to pursue a liberal policy toward these latest defenders of the republic than it was when dealing with those of former generations.

The soldiers of the revolution, the war of 1812 and the Mexican war were all given service pensions and land warrants which gave title to a quarter-section anywhere on the public domain that the soldier or his assign elected to locate. There are men drawing the Mexican war pension who never left the depot where they enlisted, the sudden termination of the war rendered their service unnecessary, and they were discharged without ever loading a gun. Yet under the law they get the pension.

No service pension has been granted soldiers of the last war, and they are required to reside upon their land claims to perfect title. But they enter no complaint on that score. Their complaint is that payment of what has been granted is begrudged, and the contumely heaped upon them.

A leaf from the history of pension legislation is not out of place at this time. Under former enactments no disability was pensionable unless it could be traced to casualty in the line of duty, with the strongest proof to that effect. As age crept on thousands of such disabilities developed; witnesses to the casualty were dead and proof impossible. All over the country almshouses had thousands of pauper inmates who were disabled by army service. But they could not furnish the requisite proofs and were not pensionable. Their condition was a burning disgrace to the country for which they had suffered so much. To provide for these cases the dependent pension bill was framed and enacted in 1887. This bill was vetoed by President Cleveland on the somewhat sentimental ground that a pension should be a badge of honor and not a badge of penury. To meet these objections the disability pension bill was framed and became a law in 1890. Under its provisions present disability and proof of service are the requisites. This cured the cases the dependent pension bill was framed to meet, but it gave pensions to thousands who do not need them. It also opened the door to a great deal of fraud. With a view to investigating these frauds and correcting abuses, Secretary Hoke Smith has ordered suspension of thousands of pensions. If investi-

gation shows the case deserving, the pension will be restored. If the pensioner starves pending investigation, the government shifts a burden. That is execution first and trial afterward. The right way would be to investigate the list, cancel all fraudulently secured pensions, and criminally prosecute those guilty of fraud.

Now the position taken by many of those supporting the present policy of the administration is on a ground diametrically opposed to the position laid down in the veto of the dependent pension bill, numerous instances are cited of men drawing pensions who are in receipt of handsome incomes from professional or other employment, and the assertion is made that such men should not be pensioned. Had Mr. Cleveland approved the dependent pension bill they would not be. But under the "badge of honor" theory every soldier of the late war who is physically incapacitated from earning a living by manual labor is entitled to one, and should have it. Having set up the "badge of honor" theory in his former administration its repudiation by Mr. Cleveland now is not a graceful act.

Under the theory of pensions for disability payments are rated according to the capacity of the pensioner to earn his living by manual labor, were his situation such that he had to earn his living in that way. Total incapacity is paid a stipend about equal to the wage of a day laborer. Partial incapacity is paid less, regularly graded according to degree and extent of disability. Then there are ratings beyond total disability, where the pensioner needs an attendant. It is under these ratings that General Black, Mr. Cleveland's former pension commissioner, and now a member of congress, is paid \$100 per month. Supreme Judge Long of Michigan, whose pension has been suspended, is in the same class. Would Mr. Cleveland or Mr. Hoke Smith submit to the suffering and inconvenience experienced by General Black and Judge Long, for \$100 a month?

Congress is in session, and the battle between mono-metalism and bi-metalism has begun, with all the influence of the executive exerted in favor of the single gold standard. Crisp was re-elected speaker, and on Tuesday the president's message was read to the two houses of congress. It was entirely devoted to the financial question, but attention to tariff reform is promised at a later date. Prompt repeal of the Sherman act is recommended, and the assertion is made that the attempt of the United States to maintain a parity between gold and silver, is a failure. The gold-bug hope that "legislative action shall put beyond all doubt or mistake the intention of the government to fulfill all its primary obligations in money universally recognized by all civilized countries," is expressed.

Many sincere friends of bi-metalism assert it impossible to do anything for rehabilitation of silver as a money metal, without inducing Great Britain to unite in the effort made. As the great creditor nation, whom the rest of the nations of earth owe more than one thousand millions of money, it is Great Britain's advantage to collect principal and interest of that enormous sum in a money metal which will annually buy more of the commodities other nations have to sell, or its equivalent in those commodities. Great Britain never yet abandoned a commercial or financial advantage over another nation except under stress of compulsion; and those who advocate waiting for Great Britain to aid in raising silver, are indirectly advocating gold mono-metalism.

When the court of private land claims confirmed the Algodones grant

and the successful claimant adopted a liberal policy of subdivision and colonization, Yuma took a start that gave promise of a healthy and rapid growth. Numerous investors put capital into various projects, and all sides were life, activity and progress. But the wand of baleful magic has been extended at Washington, to cast a blight upon all this prosperity. The attorney general insists that the case shall be appealed to the supreme court, where it will hang a number of years before a hearing and decision can be reached. In the meantime Yuma can languish and stagnate. As a plaster upon progress and prosperity the present national administration takes the pennant.

Governor Hughes is busily engaged upon his first annual report to the secretary of the interior, which is due in Washington on the 25th inst. It will be devoted to a presentation of the great possibilities in the commercial development of Arizona by improvement of the Colorado river, and the agricultural and horticultural development that will follow utilization of a comprehensive water storage system. A great deal of careful thought is being given the report, and it is aimed to make it abreast with the time and fully representative of the Arizona of the present and the future.

The Arizona Weather Magazine is the name of a new literary candidate for public favor, the first number of which is at hand. It is edited and published by Mr. Wm. Burrows, director of the crop and weather bureau at the station at Tucson. The design is to make the magazine a complete record of climatic and crop conditions in the territory, together with much valuable information of a general nature in the same line that cannot fail to be of great value to all interested in development of Arizona's abundant resources.

The "bear garden" scene in the British parliament, last week, at the close of the debate upon the home rule bill, should forever silence English sneers at American legislative bodies. Except in a Tar Flat ward caucus there was never presented in America such an array of black eyes and broken noses as that witnessed in the staid British house of commons last Friday. The Irish members were right in it, and with genuine Donnybrook fervor they hit a head wherever they saw one.

The Tailor's National Exchange has erected a building of its own at the World's Fair, which is a reproduction of the Erechtheum, at Athens, which was planned by Pericles and erected by Phidias, the great Greek sculptor. Just think of the Athenian Erechtheum filled with tailors wearing stove-pipe hats and business suits. It would be sufficient to raise Pericles and give the shade of Phidias a fit.

Minister Blount has filed his report with the state department, and it is against annexation of Hawaii. He says a majority of the people there are opposed to annexation, and "the spirit of our institutions is opposed to annexation of an unwilling people." Hoot! Wasn't Georgia, Mr. Blount's own state, annexed by General Sherman, in 1864, against the wishes of an unwilling people?

Forty cents an ounce is the actual average cost of extracting silver from ore, at the smelters in Denver, Pueblo and elsewhere. The cost of mining and transportation of the ore to the smelter has to be paid beside. With silver at fifty-three cents an ounce the last mentioned charges had only thirteen cents to meet them. No wonder the silver mines closed down.

The triumph of gold now will result in adoption of fiat money by the next

generation. The rapidly increasing volume of the world's business cannot long be bound down in its exchanges to a single metal, the production of which is so limited and its use so wide that its volume is stationary if not diminishing. When the world realizes that, there will be some astonishing changes in its monetary system.

Type written copies of Mr. Cleveland's letter accepting the democratic nomination and his message side by side were passed among senators and representatives Wednesday. In the letter he says "gold and silver can be safely utilized upon equal terms in the adjustment of currency." In the message he says they cannot.

The anti-silver men in congress will shove "Reed rules" upon the silver men. That is business. Mr. Reed asserted that the Fifty-first congress had set precedents to govern the conduct of parliamentary bodies for the next hundred years. If they are to do any business they must follow these new precedents.

The reason why the ratio of 16 to 1 was adopted in coining gold and silver was the fact that the ratio is the average annual proportion in which the two metals have been produced through many years. The proportion in which nature gives them to man is the proper ratio for their use by man.

The territorial board of education has prescribed that refractory pupils shall be whipped by teachers only on twenty-four hours' notice to the parents or guardian and one trustee, that they may be present with a referee and timekeeper, and conduct the affair under Quakerberry rules.

The constitution of the United States, the rule and guide to the faith of all true democrats, says nothing of the "money recognized by all civilized nations," so glibly set forth by President Cleveland. It simply says that gold and silver shall be the money of the United States.

In theory human life is more sacred than money. But is it in practice? In time of war a government can conscript men to be killed, but it cannot conscript money to be spent. It takes men upon its own terms; but it has to submit to terms to get money.

Fanaticism, in whatever form, is offensive to fair minded people, and the fanaticism which would force open the World's Fair on Sunday, at a loss, is as offensive as that other form of fanaticism which sought to close it in response to sectarian prejudice.

The World's Fair may not prove a brilliant financial success, but those running it are having a high old time, banqueting themselves and other noted people, and holding "high jinks" all the while and "low jinks" between times.

The railroads offered to take Western editors to the World's Fair free if the Exposition managers would entertain them; but as the Fair directory expects no more favors from the press the proposition was negatived.

Experience teaches that it will not do to sow alfalfa in a young orchard. Trees are kept back two or three years by it. For rapid growth and early development of fruit trees light cultivation is beneficial.

Sometimes those who shout "fanaticism" the loudest are themselves the most fanatical. Vide the unreconstructed "patriot" who misdirects the public educational system in Maricopa county.

Will the "dollar of the daddies" stay with us, or will it join the daddies?